

Congresswoman

**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District

Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



## Translation Services Coming to Local Hospitals

Velázquez supports city hospital settlement to aid patients

The State Attorney General's office held a press conference to announce the settlement reached in a lawsuit against Wyckoff Heights Medical Center and Woodhull Medical Center, regarding the hospitals' failure to provide interpretation services to limited-English proficient (LEP) individuals.

"Today, we come together to reiterate that these hospitals and all city hospitals must guarantee these individuals -- whether they are Hispanic, Polish, Romanian, Greek or any other nationality -- equal access to health care services," Congresswoman Velázquez said.

Both Wyckoff and Woodhull hired a language coordinator whose job responsibility will be to identify and monitor the hospitals' language needs and to ensure that LEP patients' language requirements are being properly met.

"Both hospitals have pledged to establish a uniform procedure for how to serve LEP patients and make their policies clear to outside interpreters," Congresswoman Velázquez said.



**Congresswoman Velázquez spoke out with State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.**

## Velázquez Speaks Out Against DOL Office Closure

The Department of Labor (DOL) made a proposal to close its Employment and Training Administration (ETA) New York Regional office. This office closure will affect 65 DOL employees who will be forced to either take a buy-out or relocate to an out-of-state office. Congresswoman Velázquez spoke out in opposition to the proposal during a press conference in March.

"New York City is suffering from an economic crisis," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "The city has lost 176,000 jobs in the past two years, many as a direct result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, and the state is seeking to borrow an additional \$860 million from the federal government to finance unemployment benefits for workers. Closing the ETA's New York Regional office could not have come at a worse time."

The New York Regional office oversees more than \$1 billion in employment and training funds for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands each year. With more than 50,000



**Congresswoman Velázquez spoke out at a press conference against the ETA's NY Regional office closure.**

labor certification applications pending, New York state currently has the worst delays in the country, as the New York Regional office is still processing applications from December 2001. Closing the ETA NY office will only create a further backlog of applicants waiting to receive benefits and services.

"Approximately 65 DOL employees, some who have worked here for more than 30 years, will have to make a difficult decision between taking a buy-out or uprooting their families and moving to Boston," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "I am astounded by this irresponsible and counterproductive decision to close this office while our city is still recovering from the terrorist attacks, the economy is crippled, and tens of thousands of people are out of work and in need of assistance."

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# \$500,000 to Make the Road By Walking

Congresswoman Velázquez presented the Brooklyn organization, Make the Road By Walking (MRBW), with a check in the amount of \$500,000. She successfully secured this federal funding to start a Community Literacy and Arts Center.

“Make the Road By Walking is an outstanding grassroots organization that serves the residents of Bushwick,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “The new center will provide this underserved community, home to approximately 130,000 residents, with important instruction for self-development and advancement.”

MRBW provides critical services to primarily low-income Latino and African-American residents of Bushwick and the surrounding neighborhoods. The center will be the first of its kind in Bushwick.



Left to Right: Maria Arriaga, Andrew Friedman, Congresswoman Velázquez and Oona Chatterjee.

## Velázquez Hosts NASA’s Starship 2040 Exhibit

NASA’s Starship 2040 exhibit spent two days at I.S. 349, School of Math, Science and Technology in Bushwick. The tour was kicked off by Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez.

“This is a program that will encourage all of you to learn more about science and space exploration,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “The Starship 2040 is a traveling exhibit and outreach program that allows schools to walk through a full-sized mock-up of a spacecraft’s control, passenger and engineering compartments, and talk to NASA experts.”

This tour was part of NASA’s seven-stop New York state tour, which began in Syracuse, and is designed to peak the interests of students in learning about science and space.

“As your Congresswoman, I want to ensure that you have access to the resources and technology that you need to excel,” Congresswoman Velázquez said. “I see NASA’s Starship 2040 as an incredible resource for you.”



Congresswoman Velázquez speaks to students at NASA exhibit Opening at local school.

### Grants Awarded to Our Community

United Academy Inc.....\$868,241 Funding for Head Start Project	New York State Dept. of Education.....\$347,312,000 Funding for Special Ed. Grants to State
New York City.....\$61,194,102 Funding to provide primary care and supportive services for low-income residents with HIV/AIDS	New York State Dept. of Education.....\$37,508,795 Funding for Vocational Ed. Basic Grants to State
New York City.....\$32,466,292 Funding to assist people living with AIDS	New York Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped.....\$7,438,729 Funding for rehab services
New York City.....\$10,215,018 Funding for minority AIDS initiative to bolster care and services	New York Educational Vocal Services for Individuals with Disabilities.....\$36,320,375 Funding for rehab services
New York State.....\$260,121,205 Funding for low-income energy assistance funds	New York Commission on Quality of Care..\$225,664 Funding for rehab services
New York State Dept. of Education.....\$730,171,183 Funding for Title I money	New York State Dept. of Education.....\$316,170 Funding for Independent Living
New York State Dept. of Education.....\$21,847,401 Funding for Safe and Drug-Free Schools	New York Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.....\$5,461,852 Funding for Safe and Drug-Free Schools